

LUKE PEARSON

HILDA AND THE TROLL



FLYING EYE BOOKS



THANKS TO PHILIPPA, MY FAMILY, MARTHA, JULES AND EVERYBODY AT NOBROW.



THE HOLE

THE RUINS

W

S

E

THE WOODS

HILDA'S HOUSE

THE WILDERNESS

THE OLD BRIDGE

THE BLUE
PINE FOREST

ROCK POOL

THE TROLL ROCK

THE GREAT FOREST

THE WOOD MAN'S HOUSE

TROLBERG
THIS WAY





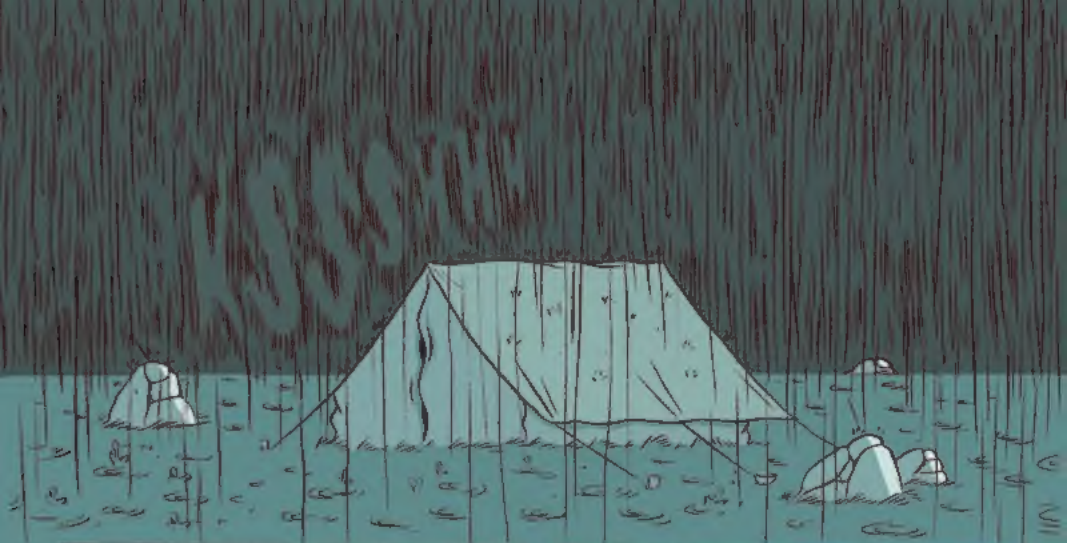
...CHANCE
OF SNOW
TOMORROW AND
IN THE COMING
DAYS...

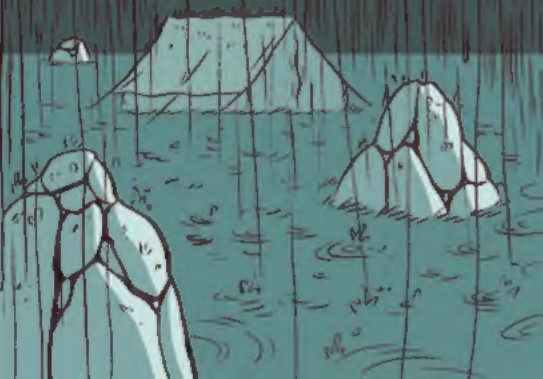
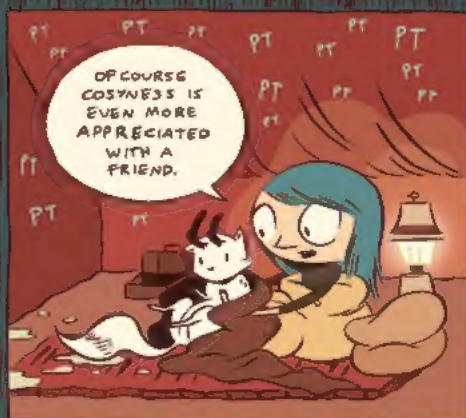


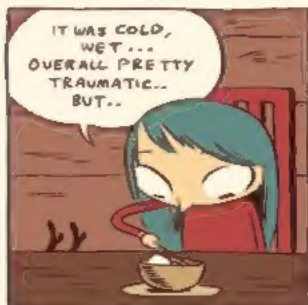
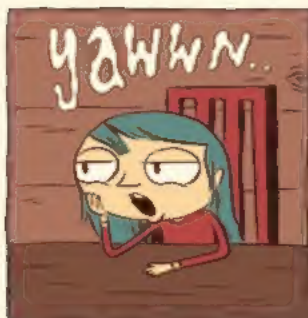
BUT
TONIGHT,
CLOUDS ROLLING
IN FROM THE EAST
...
TEMPERATURES
REMAIN
MILD..





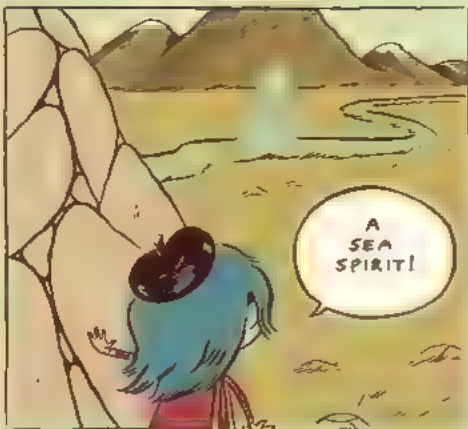
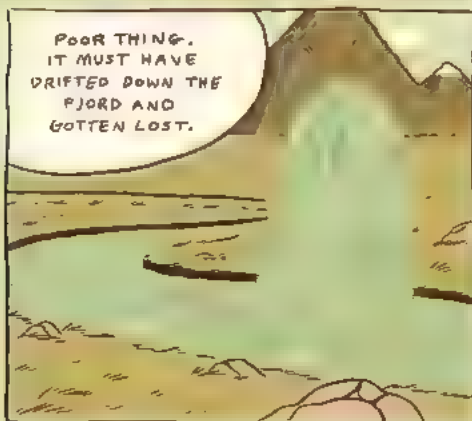




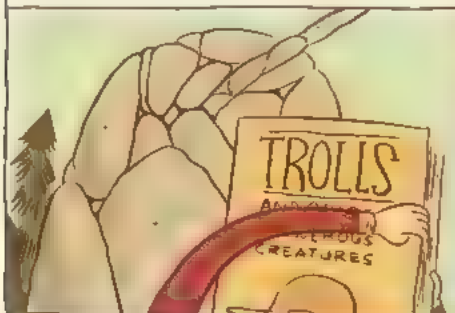








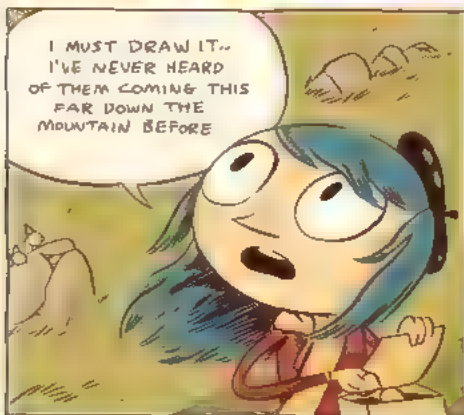
BY DAY, IT'S NOTHING
BUT A PECULIAR LOOKING
ROCK. BUT BY DARKNESS...



...IT TAKES THE FORM
OF A FIERCE AND
POWERFUL TROLL!



I MUST DRAW IT...
I'VE NEVER HEARD
OF THEM COMING THIS
FAR DOWN THE
MOUNTAIN BEFORE



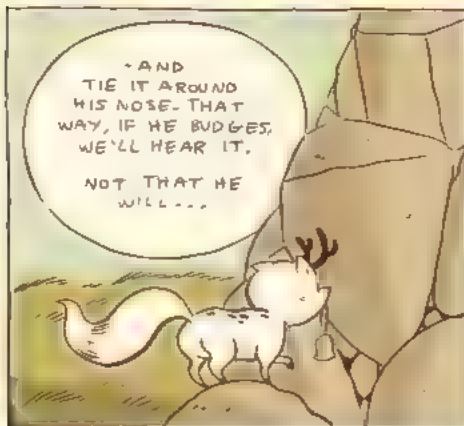
LUCKILY I WAS
PREPARED FOR
THIS PRECISE
EVENTUALITY.

I NEED YOU TO
TAKE THIS
BELL TW G-

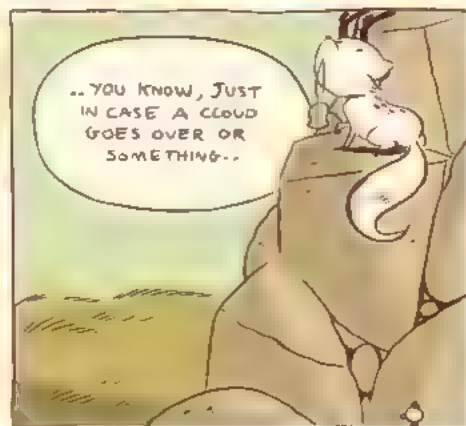


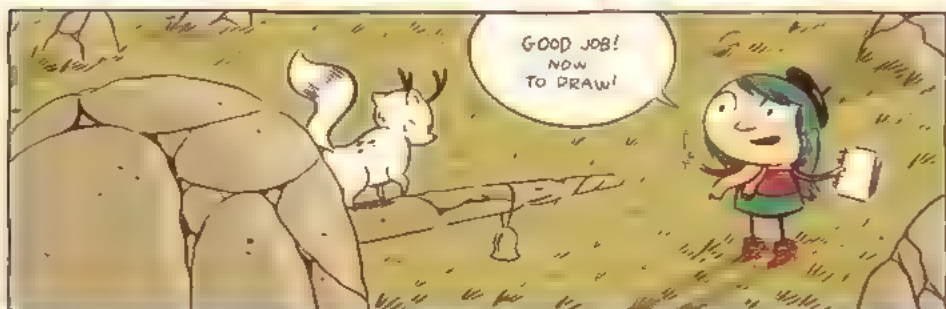
•AND
TIE IT AROUND
HIS NOSE. THAT
WAY, IF HE BUDGES,
WE'LL HEAR IT.

NOT THAT HE
WILL...



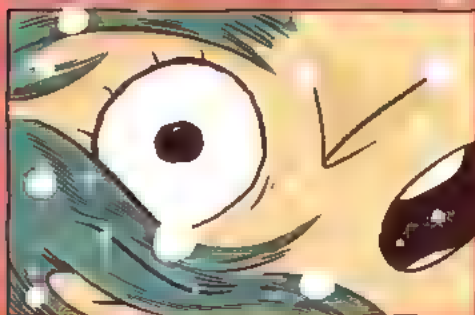
..YOU KNOW, JUST
IN CASE A CLOUD
GOES OVER OR
SOMETHING...





Jingle
Jingle

Jingle
Jingle
Jingle



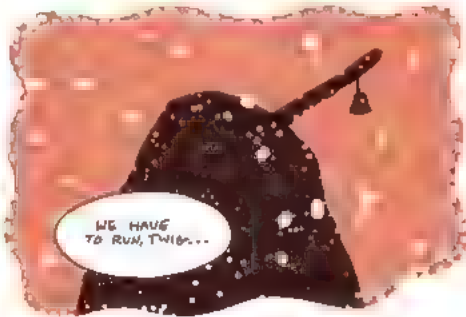
OH NO! THE
SUN'S SETTING!
AND THE TROLL...



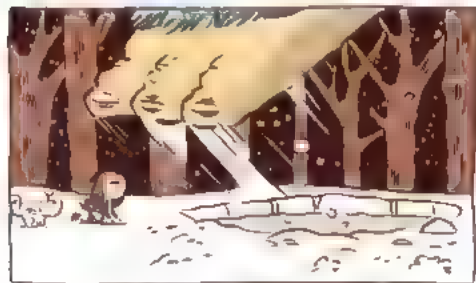
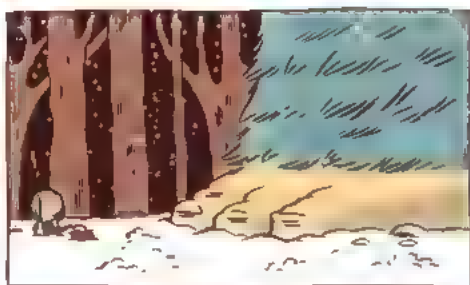
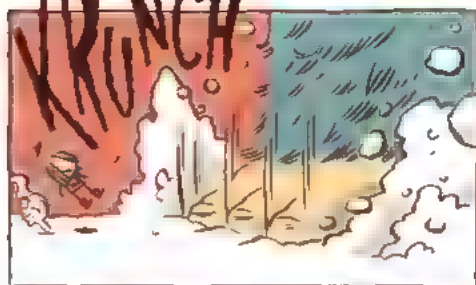
HE COULD
BE
ANYWHERE!

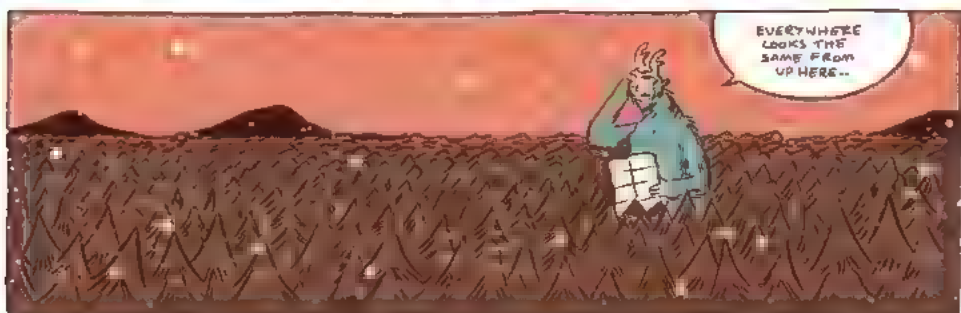
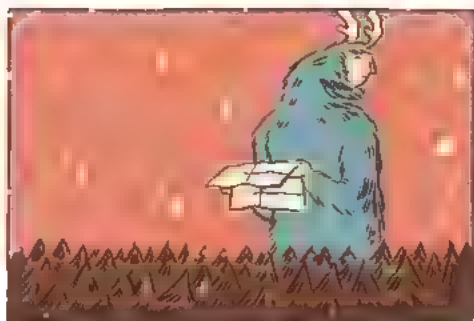


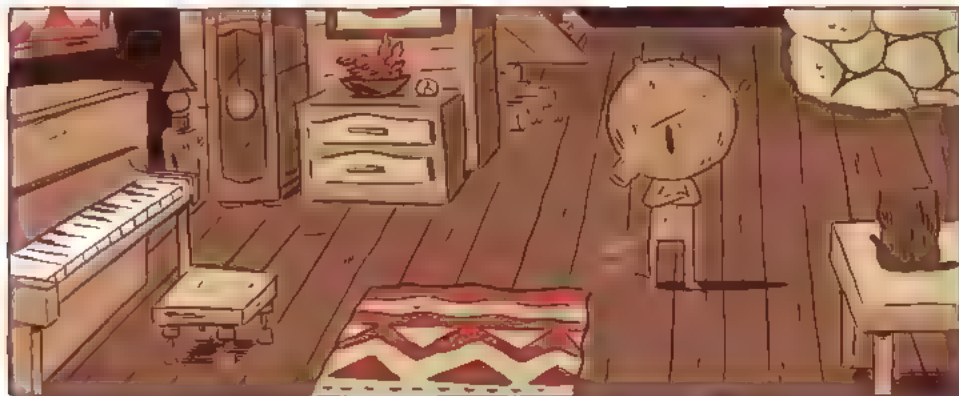
WE HAVE
TO RUN, TWICE...



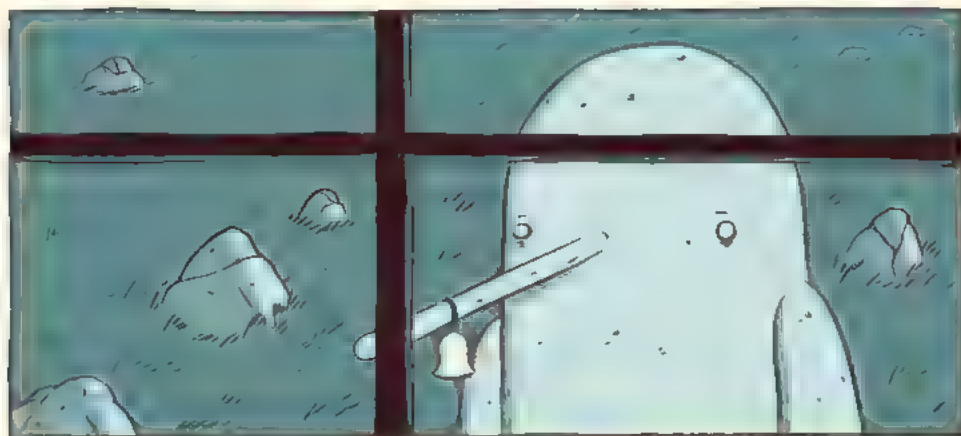
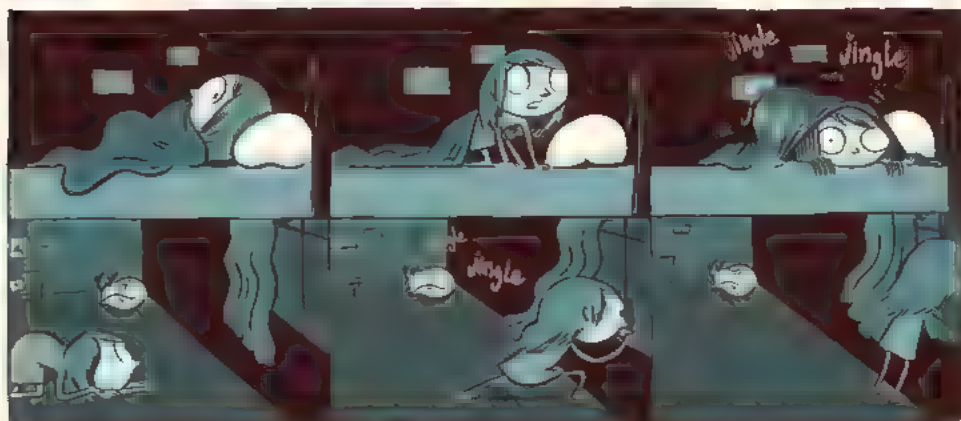
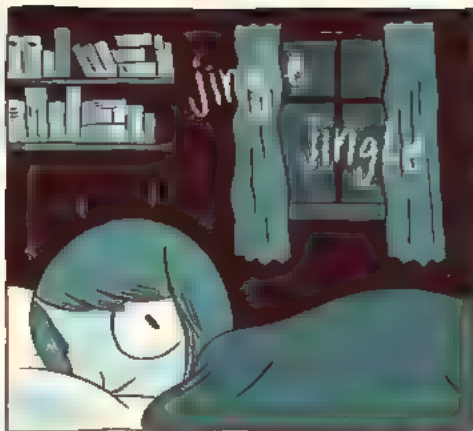
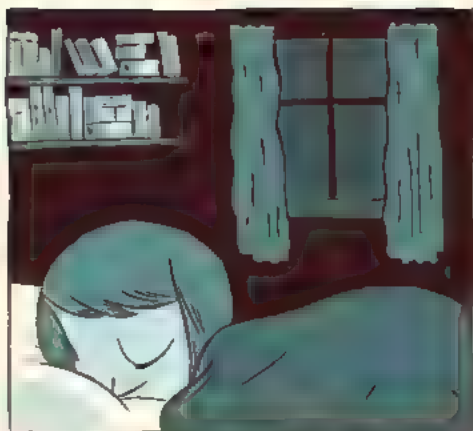








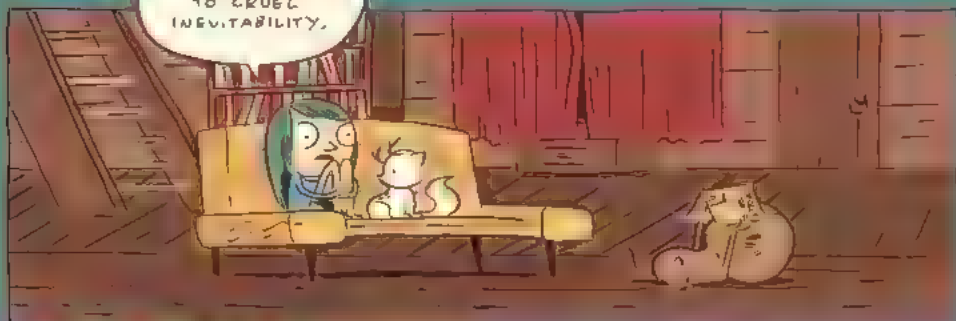




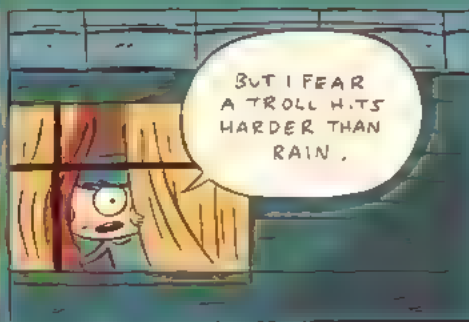


WELL THIS
IS T WE KNEW
THE RISKS.

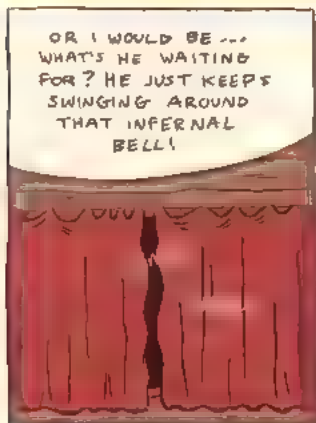
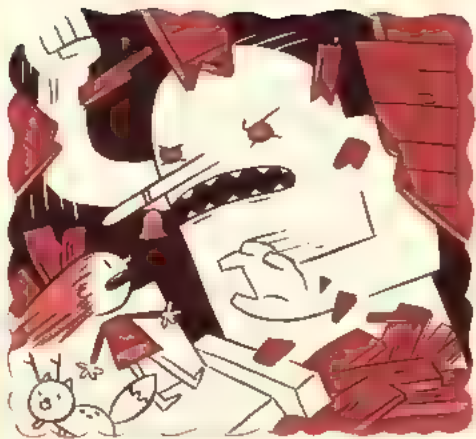
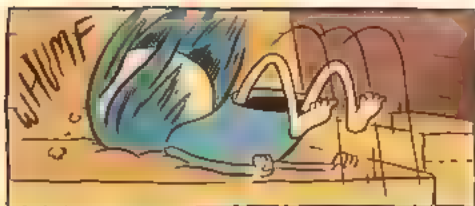
NOW WE
MUST ANSWER
TO CRUEL
INEVITABILITY.



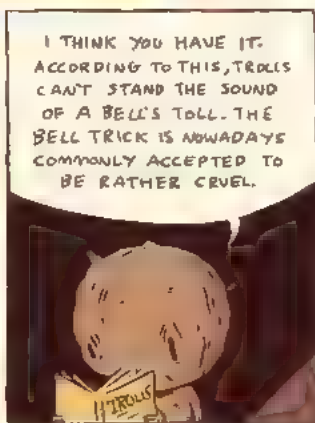
MEAN DON'T
GET ME WRONG,
I'M SERIOUSLY
APPRECIATING
MY COSYNESS
RIGHT NOW.



BUT I FEAR
A TROLL HITS
HARDER THAN
RAIN.



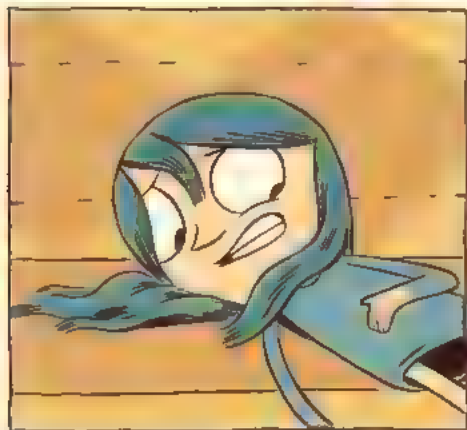
OR I WOULD BE ...
WHAT'S HE WAITING
FOR? HE JUST KEEPS
SWINGING AROUND
THAT INFERNAL
BELL!



I THINK YOU HAVE IT.
ACCORDING TO THIS, TROLLS
CAN'T STAND THE SOUND
OF A BELL'S TOLL. THE
BELL TRICK IS NOWADAYS
COMMONLY ACCEPTED TO
BE RATHER CRUEL.



...DIDN'T
YOU READ
THAT FAR?



WELL THAT EXPLAINS WHY HE FOLLOWED ME
HERE... THE POOR THING CAN'T REACH.
HE NEEDS HELP GETTING IT OFF!

ONE SHOULD
ALWAYS READ THE
WHOLE BOOK
THEY'RE NO
FOR DIPPIN

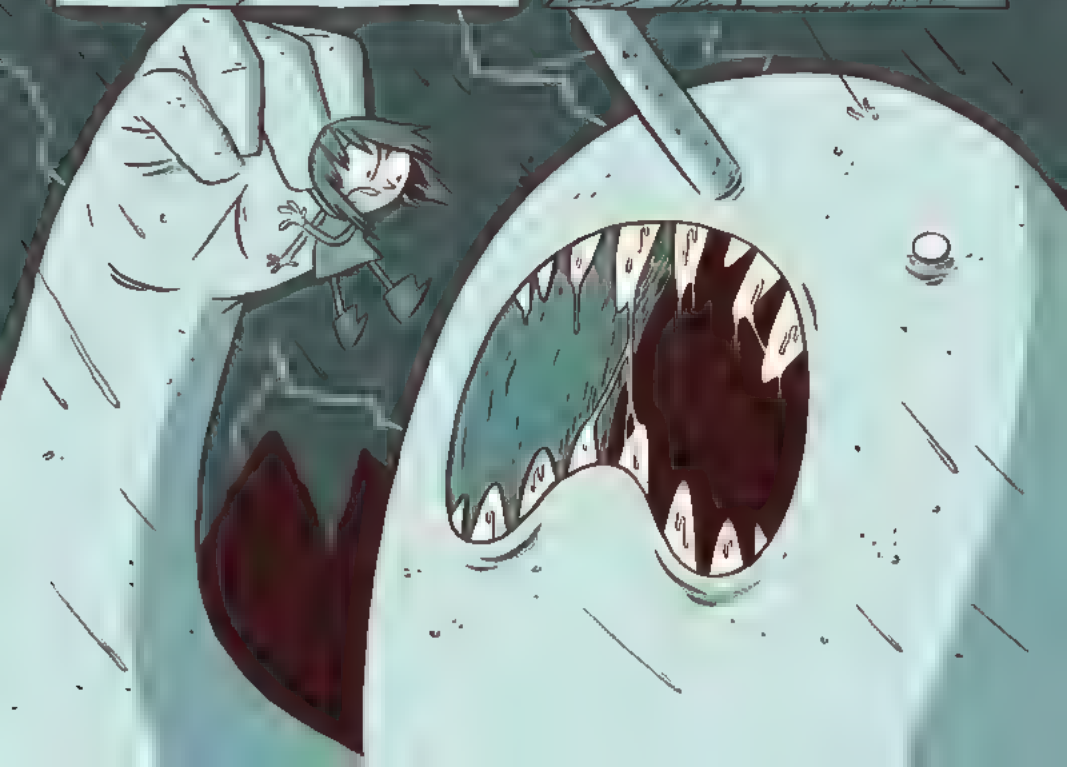
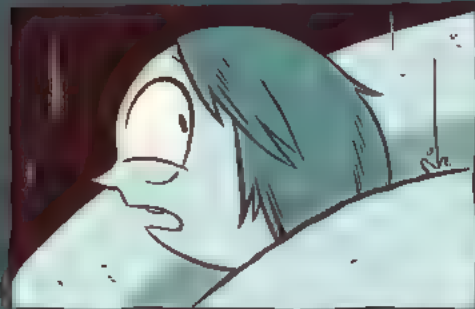
SHUSH
YOU!

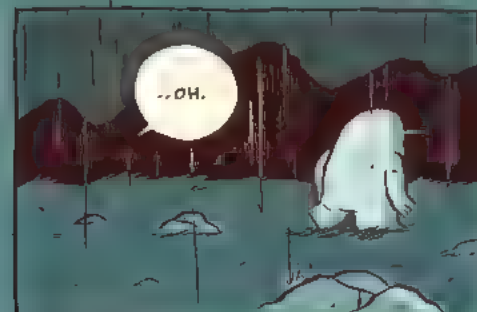
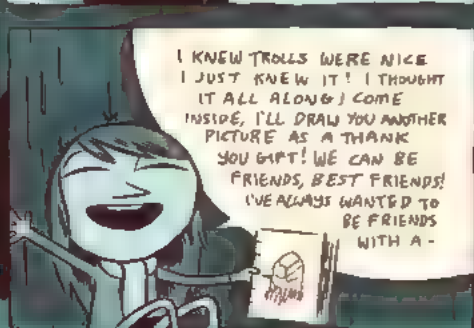
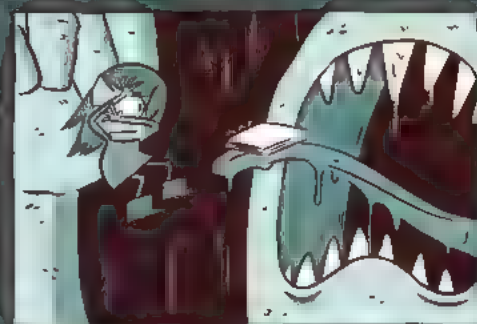


THERE. SORRY
ABOUT THAT AGAIN.
I'LL BE OFF NOW.
YOU PROBABLY
SHOULD BE.



...TOO.









and although they will often mimic the regular stones that litter their territory, they are far from undetectable. They are frequently distinguishable by the hints of a face or the characteristically long nose, although the more devious trolls will actively attempt to conceal this feature.



Left, photograph of a petrified troll with concealed nose (photographer/date unknown). Above, an artistic interpretation of the unpetrified specimen.

The petrification process is not a pleasant or comfortable one for the rock troll, with the level of discomfort varying wildly. Larger trolls tend to bice it in their stride, while for smaller and weaker specimens the effect can be permanent. It's generally accepted however that all those vulnerable to the sun's effects strive to avoid it when possible. Even those species not susceptible to petrification appear to take a dislike to it. It is for this reason that trolls tend to make their homes in the shadows of mountains, deep in forests and most commonly, in caves. Even at night it is rare to encounter a troll too far from the safety of its lair for fear of being caught out by the approaching dawn.



TROLLS & BELLS



It has long been known that trolls have a seemingly irrational fear of the sound of ringing bells. Unlike sunlight, the sound appears to have no physiological effects on the creatures, except for those resulting directly from the psychological distress the ringing causes them.

Historically, this has been exploited to great effect by humans who have found themselves in conflict with trolls, both as a method of personal self-defence and on a larger scale. Settlers arriving in the unspoiled wildernesses around the Norfjords would first erect temporary wooden bell towers, to secure the area in preparation for building. Cities such as Trolberg maintain a large number of permanent bell towers with a regular ringing schedule to keep the native trolls a safe distance from their walls.



In the past, travellers would hang small bells in the mouths of caves that were believed to be home to trolls, both as a warning to fellow travellers looking for shelter and to potentially prevent the trolls from leaving their lair. Similarly, when setting up a camp, travellers would search the immediate area for suspicious looking rocks and hang a bell from any nose-like protrusions they came across. If any of the stones began to stir when night fell, the camp would be alerted. However, in recent

WUZZLE SCANS

